

host,  
ys—  
place  
praise  
  
l,  
arone  
lone.  
anx  
  
e,  
or.  
  
knes  
ts ou  
ts,  
ath.  
  
anks  
eath'  
  
liss,  
  
ind.  
woe  
ove,  
  
aise  
ish'd  
  
ings  
und  
sive  
  
ne,  
  
heir  
t,  
.  
  
d,  
the  
ths.

THE  
**MERRIMACK MAGAZINE,**  
AND  
**MONTHLY REGISTER,**  
OF *POLITICS, AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND*  
**RELIGION.**

---

O let us still the secret joy partake,  
To follow virtue e'en for virtue's sake.—*Temple of Fame.*

---

VOL. 1.]

HAVERHILL, MASS. MAY 1825.

[No. 5.]

---

**BIOGRAPHY.**

---

**FRANKLIN.**

When an individual succeeds in his plans of life in an unusual degree—when he is able to outstrip his competitors and equals in life, and place himself on the pinnacle of human greatness by his own native talents—when he attracts the esteem, the regard and the admiration of his cotemporaries, it seems proper to survey such a character with peculiar attention, that we may discover the causes which have produced such a phenomenon in the moral world, that others may follow his course, so far as their natural abilities, their circumstances, and those of the age and country will admit.

At a time when all those subjects which interest our warmest feelings are laid aside, when the revolutions of states and empires are at a stand, when, as it were, “the general pulse of life stands still, and nature makes a pause,” we find time to review those characters, which have acted a conspicuous part in the transactions of the last age.

Such is the perversion of taste, and so have mankind been blinded by the parade of war, and the eclat of victory, that scarce any subject can interest

many readers but war and bloodshed; but such we trust is not the case with all, and we have no doubt many can dwell with peculiar delight upon a character whose superiority was conspicuous in the cabinet, the walks of literature, and the mechanic arts—upon one of our countrymen who rose by the force of his own native genius, from the station of a mechanic, laboring with his own hands, to the important station of President of the American Congress under the confederation, and minister plenipotentiary to the principal powers in Europe.

Almost every individual must possess some acquaintance with the principal circumstances of the life of this self taught philosopher, statesman and patriot. The first distinguishing trait in his character seems to have been an insatiable thirst for knowledge. Although he appeared to be destined to move in the humbler walks of life, yet he improved every possible mean of storing his mind with useful knowledge, that he could have done, had he known that he was destined to preside in the councils of a nation, or stand before kings. He neglected no study on the principle that it would be of no use in his business—that it would not enable him the better to make candles, or set types; but while he pursued his



business with alacrity, he studied mathematics like a professor—composition like an author—rhetoric like an orator, and philosophy like a genuine student of nature. How many of the inmates of our academic halls, are favored with immense libraries, all necessary instructions, and the costly apparatus of learning, while a laboring mechanic outstrips them in science, discovers truth of which they never dreamt, and illustrates them by reasoning which they can scarcely comprehend.

The most peculiar circumstance in his life, and which had its full share in raising him to eminence, and without which all his acquirements must have been nearly useless, was his unremitted industry. However extensive his knowledge, and exalted his views, he did not hesitate to labor with his own hands, till its profits had raised him above its necessity. Happily America is distinguished from many other countries by this circumstance, that men of the highest attainments, and the most affluent fortunes, think it a disgrace to be idle; and deeply engage in business or labor with their own hands: and probably there is no person who has contributed more, both by precept and example, to produce this effect than Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

Another memorable incident in his life, was his fixed resolution to conduct all his concerns with inflexible integrity. This resolve was originated and deeply impressed, by the bitter repentance which followed an instance of breach of trust, in lending to a worthless companion, some money which a friend had confided to his care. Although we have not that evidence in favor of his christian character, which, added so distinguished an item to the excellence of many of his exalted contemporaries, yet he appears to have been taught by his native good sense, under the leadings of an invisible hand, to place a proper estimate upon those moral precepts which distinguish revelation.

Another circumstance worthy of notice and which doubtless had an agency in preparing him for the distinguished part which he acted in after life, was the formation of a society whose object was literary improvement, and who frequently met to read their compositions, and criticise upon the performances of each other,—this was the school in which was formed a president of the continental congress, and an ambassador to Europe.

The formation of societies under various names has ever been a distinguished means of improvement. Most of our readers will remember the “blue stocking club” of the “colossal Johnson,” and the “everlasting club,” which, whether it ever really assembled or not, has been immortalized in the Spectator. We scarcely read the life of an individual who has made any considerable figure in the literary or political circle, but we find that at some period of his life he has been engaged in a similar concern.

These remarkable incidents were many of them such as derived their consequence from his own peculiar talents, and without these, no circumstances could have made him great, but all his talents, we are aware, under other circumstances, might scarcely have distinguished him from the multitude. Man is in a great degree the creature of circumstances, and had even Franklin been born in a different age and nation, he might with all his talents, have been unknowing and unknown.

It is in the midst of great events that great characters are formed, wars and revolutions often develope talents which even their possessors were not conscious of possessing. Had Tarquin governed with wisdom and justice, Junius Brutus had ever been considered an idiot, instead of being hailed as the deliverer of Rome. And had not the encroachments of Great Britain given occasion for resistance, Washington, and Franklin, and Hancock, and Adams, and Otis, had scarcely been



able to enroll their names in the pages of history.

The principal causes therefore which contributed to the exaltation of Franklin, seem to be these,—he was endow-  
ed by nature with an excellent under-  
standing, and an uncommon thirst for  
knowledge,—he was most persevering-  
and industrious,—he obtained a deserved  
reputation for inflexible integrity,—be-  
coming destitute of the means of a learned  
education, he associated his friends  
that they might instruct and improve  
each other,—unable to purchase many  
books they made up a library of their  
common stock,—these were the prin-  
cipal means by which the wandering  
exile who traversed the streets of Phil-  
adelphia, with his wardrobe in his  
pocket, and his bread under his arm,  
came at length in that same city to  
reside in the councils of these rising  
states, and to stand in plaister and in  
marble as its greatest ornament. These  
were the means by which the daily la-  
bourer in the printing house of Lon-  
don, came afterwards to visit that same  
city as minister plenipotentiary, and  
his envoy extraordinary to the king of  
Great Britain.

Although no concurrence of events  
will ever make a great man of an idiot,  
an idler or a drunkard, and on the  
other hand a man may do all that is  
possible to improve himself and serve  
his fellow men, and after all suffer the  
evils of penury and neglect, yet the  
example of Franklin holds out the  
greatest possible encouragement to in-  
dustry, frugality and integrity, while  
we at the same time rely on the care  
of an ever watchful Providence, to or-  
der our circumstances. Had sickness  
paralyzed this industry, or fire or tem-  
pest destroyed its proceeds, can we  
suppose his talents or acquirements  
could have saved him from neglect.  
Had his talents and exertions been  
opposed by the prejudices of a tri-  
umphant party, they would have been  
like "pearls before swine, who, after  
trampling them under foot, would turn

again to rend him." But happily this  
was not the case—all within and with-  
out concerned to make him great, and  
probably he was led by circumstance  
far beyond the utmost limits of his own  
plan. He disagrees with his brother  
and must therefore quit Boston; he  
could not find employment in New  
York and therefore seeks it in Phila-  
delphia, and is there brought to the  
central point of the great drama of the  
American revolution. Being cheated  
into a voyage to London by the con-  
temptible manœuvres of Gov. Keith,  
he becomes acquainted with England  
and is therefore qualified for an am-  
bassador. On the whole, whatever  
other instruction we may draw from  
the events of his interesting life, it  
affords a lively comment upon the sa-  
cred truth—

"There's a Divinity that forms our ends,  
Rough hew them as we will."

From the Boston Centinel.

*Sketch of the Life of*  
**HON. JOHN BROOKS,**  
*Late Governor of Massachusetts.*

Biographical sketches of distinguish-  
ed men, are useful only in proportion  
to their truth and fidelity.

Inflated eulogy and exaggerated  
praise, neither do honor to the dead  
nor good to the living.

The man whose life is not its own  
eulogy, and does not seal its own char-  
acter without the rhetorician's aid, had  
better pass unnoticed than to be drawn  
into public view. Friends will remem-  
ber his virtues, and his vices will be  
forgotten by all, unless forced upon  
recollection by an imprudent demand  
of praise. But praise becomes satire,  
and the tomb itself ceases to protect  
from censure, when commendation is  
challenged where it is not due. It is  
under the full force of these truths that  
a friend of the deceased Gov. Brooks,  
ventures to trace some of the promi-  
nent features of his life and character,  
in the hope that the picture he shall  
present will strike all who knew him



as an honest copy from nature; and that its harmony and moral beauty will be attractive to the young, and induce them to admire and imitate the virtues it represents.

It is for the young, chiefly, that this sketch is drawn. The old and the middle aged need no remembrance of his worth. He has lived with them, and for them; and they are all witnesses of his deeds and virtues.

But the rising generation are in need of models and exemplars. They read of heroes and statesmen, and are animated in the pursuit of fame;—let them be stimulated to the love of virtue, of true patriotism, of moral dignity, by contemplating the character of Gov. Brooks.

He was born in the town of Medford, in the year 1752. His father was a respectable independent farmer, and the son spent his earliest years in the usual occupations of a farm.

He received no education preparatory to his professional studies, but that of the town school; at which, however, he was able to acquire sufficient of the learned languages, to qualify him for the profession of medicine. He entered upon the study of that science under Dr. Tufts, still remembered with affection by some of the surviving inhabitants. He was a favorite pupil, and received every attention and encouragement from the master.

At this school the celebrated Count Rumford was his companion and friend, and their intimacy was continued by correspondence until the death of the Count.

Having finished his studies, he chose the neighboring town of Reading as his residence, and commenced his practice there. But by this time the storm of the revolutionary war was gathering, and as its distant thunders rolled towards our shores, the hearts of the gallant youth of our country responded to the sound, and preparation for the field superseded the minor concerns of life.

A company of minute men was raised in the town, and young Brooks was chosen its commander. He was indefatigable in drilling and disciplining them, having first gained some knowledge himself by observing the military trainings of the British soldiers in Boston.

He was soon called upon for actual service. On the news of the expedition of the British to Lexington and Concord, he instantly marched with such of his company as were prepared, ordering the rest to follow. They were delayed on the road by the orders of a higher officer; but Brooks, then about 22 years of age, and the brave young men of his company pushed on towards Concord, and as they drew near to the town they met the whole British force returning. He immediately ordered his corps to place themselves behind the barns and fences and fire continually on the British. They did great execution, and contributed much to produce that panic with which the proud but humble troops retreated to their quarters in Boston.

This incident decided the part he was to take in the perilous conflict, and probably introduced him to the notice of the ruling men of the day, for he soon after received the commission of Major in the continental army, and was concerned in all the active scenes of that period. In the battle of Whit Plains, the regiment to which he belonged was the last to quit the field, and it retired under his command with the steadiness of veteran soldiers. In the battle of Monmouth he was acting as Adjutant General; and on this, as on all occasions, conducted with great coolness and bravery. His regiment at all times was put forward; and that glorious battle which immediately preceded the surrender of Burgoyne gives honor to Lieut. Colonel Brooks, who, at the head of his troops made a desperate assault upon the enemy, and afterwards forced the



raised trenchments.—It was on this occasion that he wrote to a friend—"We have met the British and Hessians, and have beat them; and not content with this victory, we have assaulted their trenchments and carried them."

It is not intended to give a minute detail of his military career. It is enough to say, that he shared largely in the dangers and glories of the war; and that when the struggle was over he had secured the reputation of a brave and skilful officer; the love and admiration of the troops under his command; the esteem of all his brother officers; and the confidence of Washington. This last was shown on many occasions, and particularly in calling him to his councils in that terrible moment, when at Newburg a conspiracy of some of the officers had well nigh disgraced the army and ruined the country.

On this occasion, the commander in chief, to whom this was the most anxious moment of his life, rode up to Brooks with intent to ascertain how the officers stood affected. Finding him as he expected, to be sound, he requested him to keep his officers in their quarters to prevent them from attending the insurgent meeting. Brooks replied, sir, I have anticipated your wishes and my orders are given. Washington with tears in his eyes took him by the hand and said, "Col. Brooks, this is just what I expected from you." Washington did not forget him after the war was over, but afterwards when an army was raised in expectation of a war with France, he designated him for the command of a brigade.

Believing however, that the dangers of the country were not so imminent as to require a second sacrifice of domestic comfort, he declined the appointment.

Like most of our country's brave defenders he returned poor to private life, and with no means of support for an increasing family but the uncertain prospects of a profession which pat-

riotie ardor had induced him to leave.

He resumed business in his native village and in the neighboring towns. The kindness of his heart and urbanity of his manners, procured him the love and confidence of all around him, so that his practice became extensive.

He was happy, and distributed happiness in a circle of attached relatives and friends, of whose society he was the soul and delight.

On all public emergencies he was their patron and adviser. They elected him to the General Court as often as his affairs would permit him to go. He was their delegate in the Convention of 1788. The county of Middlesex also delighted to honor him, making him successively their Senator and member of the Executive Council, and he was for many years at the head of its militia, reviewed by Gen. Washington when on his visit here in 1789. On this occasion Washington said, Gen. Brooks, if we had had such men as these when I was here before, we should have made short work of it—referring to their superior state of discipline.

In all these various employments, as in the military life, he was the man of firm purpose, of unsuspected integrity, of devoted patriotism.

During the administration of Gov. Strong, the important office of Adjutant General was bestowed upon him, and his military experience was thus made subservient to the interests of the Commonwealth in one of her highest concerns.

On the retirement of Gov. Strong from public service, the people of Massachusetts, who have always delighted to honor their revolutionary patriots and heroes, called him to the chair of state. It was a time of great party divisions, just after the war which in its commencement threatened so much, but in its close brought credit and honor to the country. The passions of men had not subsided, and it required much firmness and discretion



to do justice to one party without offending the other. He was found equal to the occasion. He became the ruler of a people, not of a party. His administration is now matter of history, and may be pronounced wise, impartial and just.

He has had the good fortune to outlive the storm of party contention, and to have done perhaps more than any one to allay its fury.

Indeed his wise and dignified retirement from public office, at once extinguished all disposition to undervalue his character and services. And the universal testimony to his virtues, which even party interests found it difficult to repress, upon that occasion spontaneously burst forth, so that he was held up as a model for imitation, by those who had thought it their duty to oppose him when in place.

The office of chief magistrate was not for him a place of ease and show. He devoted himself to its duties, and labored incessantly for the public good.

His addresses to the Legislature breathed a spirit of wisdom, moderation, and impartiality, and discovered large and liberal views of the solid interests of the state.

He maintained the dignity of the office, and thereby honored the people who bestowed it; receiving all distinguished strangers with becoming attentions and courtesy.

Though the style of his living was conformable to his limited means, yet the order & regularity of his household, the real comfort of his entertainments, the polite deportment of the host, struck strangers, even those who were accustomed to magnificence, as a happy specimen of republican simplicity, and of generous but economical hospitality.

Bred in the best school of manners, a military association of high minded accomplished officers, his deportment though grave and dignified like Washington's, was nevertheless warm and affectionate.—On all ceremonious oc-

casions, ceremony seemed to become him better than any one else.

In the chair of state when receiving the gratulations of a happy people on the birth day of their independence—on the spacious common paying honor to the president of the nation—on the military field reviewing our national guard, the militia—at his own humble but honored mansion taking to his breast his early friend, 'the national guest'—What young man of taste and feeling could be unmoved at his soldierly air, his graceful demeanor, covering but not impairing the generous feelings of a warm and affectionate heart!

If the writer does not mistake, he was one of the last and best samples of that old school of manners, which though it has given way to the ease and convenience of modern times, will be regretted by some having carried away with it many of the finest and most delicate traits of social intercourse.

In taking leave of his public life, it ought to be stated, that he did not cease to be useful. He continued to his death President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, of the Cincinnati, of the Washington Monument Society, and of the Bunker Hill Association. Thus honors, respect and confidence followed him to the shades of retirement. He also enjoyed by the gift of the University, the honorary degrees of A. M. and L. L. D. But I hasten to the scenes of private life, in which I confess I delight to contemplate him more than in the pomp and circumstance of war, or the arduous and busy affairs of state. He had that rare wisdom, which, during the vigor of health and understanding, is willing to anticipate the approach of old age, and its incompetency for active duties. Nothing but the importunity of friends prevented him from seeking an earlier retirement.

Having some choice spots of ground



his native town, he devoted his time and attention to its cultivation, having much of the spirit and enthusiasm of an agriculturalist.

This pleasant occupation divided his time with the perusal of numerous scientific and political publications; and a free and social intercourse with his neighbors enlivened his unoccupied time.

His life was thus eminently peaceful and happy; for though past the usual term of man, few of the troubles of old age had reached him. He could look back on a life well spent and forward to its rewards.

He was therefore always cheerful, and a companion for the young as well as the old.

He lived in the midst of his early associates, by whom he was treated as father, brother and friend. Many with whom he took sweet counsel in his former days had been gathered to the tomb, but their children and grandchildren survived, inheriting the respect and affection which their ancestors had shown towards him.

His house was the resort of all branches of his numerous relatives, the refuge of those who had been unfortunate; indeed, the love of kindred which he entertained towards all of his family, the interest he took in their welfare, the fatherly and brotherly love he expressed and felt for them, reminds us of those delightful stories of the scripture as well as fable, in which all the members of a family tribe are represented to have dwelt together in unity and love, with one common head, their patron and guide.

The life of this good man had not passed without its share of clouds; but he was a christian, and his faith dispelled them. He became, early in life, a widower, and remained so till his death. An only beloved daughter died in a foreign land; a gallant son, beautiful and accomplished, was slain in the ever memorable battle of Lake Erie. He died a hero in the moment

of victory, and the patriotic father submitted.

He has seen times of pecuniary difficulty and distress, but he knew how "*Æquam rebus in arduis servare mentem.*"

He preserved his integrity and his fortitude, and never faltered in the course of duty.

He was a christian in faith and practice; what his peculiar tenets were, I neither know nor care; but if any candid searcher of the scriptures will draw from them the character of a christian, none will deny its application to him.

Those affectionate friends who watched his dying bed will testify, that his ruling passion, which was love to God and man, was strong even in death; and that the triumphant invitation, "*Come, see how a christian can die,*" would never have been more fitly applied.

"*O! that I may live like the righteous, that my latter end may be like his,*" would have been the prayer of any who could have witnessed his quiet, patient, resigned passage through distressing sickness and pain, to that blessed immortality which awaits the good and faithful servant, as the reward of well doing on earth.

His mind was unimpaired to the last, and he employed the intervals of ease in collecting his thoughts, directing them to the world to which his spirit was hastening, and in arranging the few temporal concerns which remained unprovided for.—These related only to the disposition of his remains, and the order of his funeral, and in regard to these he gave directions with clearness and composure. Like a wise man he had, in the season of health, made all the arrangements which his circumstances and connections required; so that even death the great enemy did not take him by surprise, and his last moments were not, as is too often the case, disturbed by the cares of this world.

In this last scene as in all periods of



his life were seen the fruits of that precision, order and punctuality, which were his distinguishing characteristics.

The foregoing is but a hasty sketch of the life of a man who had been so actively engaged in so many great and interesting concerns, but it is all that this form of notice will allow. The subject is richly worthy of a memoir, and many anecdotes of a military nature, with which he was connected, would enliven and adorn the page.

I claim not for him the character of a great man, in the vulgar sense of the word. There have been greater Generals and greater Statesmen. But if there be such a thing as moral greatness; if, as I fondly hope, the qualities of the heart, the virtues, steadiness and consistency of principle, fortitude in all emergencies, prudence, forbearance, delicacy of mind, resolute integrity, fearless pursuit of duty, kindness, moderation in power, christian charity and benevolence—if these constitute greatness, then his character rises far above that of many heroes and statesmen who have been deified in the pages of history.

Justum et tenacem, propositi virum,  
Non civium ardor, prava jubentium,  
Non vultus instantis tyranni,  
Mente quatit solida.

---

### AGRICULTURE.

---

*For the Merrimack Magazine.*

SEA CALE (*Crambe Maritima*) is a perennial plant, growing naturally on many of the gravelly beaches of the west of England, and some other parts of that country; but though used from time immemorial by the common people as a pot herb, it was not introduced into the garden as a subject of cultivation, till about the middle of the 18th century, and in this country it has but just began to attract any considerable attention. It is a vegetable of much worth, and particularly as it comes early in the spring, when there is a scarcity of vegetables in a fresh and

good state. It is easy of cultivation, may be cultivated from the seed off setts; and the plant may be at a age taken up and removed to another place, without great danger to its life and thrift.

The best way to raise it however is from the seed, which should be sown in the fall or early in the spring, with the cap scales broken. If they come up and grow well, the young plants will be fit to take up and remove to the place of their permanent growth, about the last of June or beginning of July. The plants should be set in soft loam land, well spaded and manured, about twenty inches apart. Forty or fifty are enough for a common family. In the spring following, if they have done well, they will offer shoots fit for use, which, as they grow exposed to the sun, are about as good as our best cabbage, but which are benefitted essentially by being bleached—This operation is performed either by covering over the bud about four or five inches with loose gravel, or dry leaves, hay straw, or which is perhaps the best way, setting over the plant wooden boxes or earthen pots.

In this way a family may be supplied in the months of April and May, and indeed with a little pains much earlier with a vegetable very pleasant and nutritious, and at an expense of a very trifling nature.

The shoots are prepared for the table in the same way as Asparagus, with this exception, it is hardly possible they should be over done in boiling.

In some future numbers I will send you directions for forcing this plant, for in this way it may be had most of the winter months.

P. S. Though it is rather late in the season for sowing the seed it will yet do; and a few papers of it are left in the office of the Magazine, and at Mr. Peter Parker's, in Bradford, for gratuitous distribution, to any person who may be pleased to call for it.

CIVIS.



From the N. E. Farmer.

FARMER'S CALENDAR.

**Feeding Cattle, &c.**—Perhaps there is no part of husbandry which requires more skill and attention than feeding cattle and other domestic animals. It is important that your store cattle, as well as those intended for the butcher, should be maintained in a progressive state of improvement. Whether the progress be slow or quick, they should always advance. If the animals remain stationary, you lose time and the interest of what they are worth. If your cattle are suffered to lose flesh, there is a direct loss of property.

Regularity of feeding is of the utmost consequence, indeed of more than any unpractised person can conceive. Three times a day, precisely at a certain hour, ought to be the regular observance; and cattle, particularly if corn fed, require their fill of water.

The golden rule respecting *quantity*, is, as much as a beast can eat with a vigorous appetite; all beyond that important criterion is so much loss to the proprietor; and not improbably an impediment to the thrift of the animal. Here is the foundation of a grand argument for the removal of that which the animal leaves, that it may not remain to be contaminated by his breath, to disgust him, and to pall his appetite.

Straw is not a proper food for milch cows. Good hay, with the assistance of roots, will keep them well in milk during the winter, or till within six or eight weeks of their calving.

Of roots, the preference, in respect to nutrition, is to be given to the parsnip, carrot, mangel wurtzell and potatoe. Good hay alone will make good butter, although from such dry provender the quantity will be extremely small; the hay being mixed with straw, will in exact proportion to the quantity of straw deteriorate the produce of the cow. To milk a cow fed upon straw only, is extremely injurious to her constitution, and of course to the profit of the owner.

No farmer ought to be without a steam boiler, especially if he feeds his cattle as well as swine with grain or roots. This steam boiler may be cheaply made by settling a kettle holding about 10 or 12 gallons, in a furnace of brick or stone, and over this a hogshead, with one head taken out, and the other bored full of holes, which is set so close that the steam of the kettle when boiling, can only rise through the holes, and thence ascend among the articles to be steamed in the hogshead, and pass off at the top. In this way, a hogshead full of roots will be cooked at a very little expense. The kettle should be so closed as to prevent any steam from passing off but through the bottom of the hogshead, and of course a pipe or tube should be set on one side, through which, with the aid of a tunnel, the water may be poured into the kettle as occasion may require. When the water is poured in, the tube should be stopped with a plug made for that purpose. When grain is steamed, it will be necessary to cover the bottom of the hogshead with a cloth, to prevent the grain from running through the holes.

By experiments made in Pennsylvania, it was found that Indian corn and potatoes for fattening swine, would go one third further steamed or boiled than when used raw.

LONGEVITY OF TREES.

Salem, Dec. 4, 1823.

Mr. Nathan Silsbee,

Sir—The ancient pair tree in Danvers, about which you particularize, was imported from England and planted by Gov. Endicot in 1630. It stands on a hard clay bottom, covered with a rich soil more than a foot deep, sheltered from the westerly winds, but exposed to the easterly. The ground has been cultivated as a field ever since it was planted, but no particular care has been taken of the tree until the last seven years, since which, for antiquity sake it has been kept enclosed,



the ground dug and manured, new sprouts have made their appearance, and will doubtless live many years. It girts just above the ground, six feet eight inches, and tapers but little to the crotch, which is four feet six inches from the ground. It never was a tall tree, the top is now about fifteen feet high, and is entirely hollow—it bore one and a half bushels of fair fruit this year, (1823,) and always has been prolific; the fruit is good, and there can be no doubt of its having been engrafted.

SAMUEL ENDICOT.

### MISCELLANY.

#### HISTORY OF THE DIAMOND.

*From Dr. Van Renselaer's Lectures on Mineralogy.*

From the earliest periods of antiquity the diamond has been considered as the most costly of all substances. The chief reason of this value was its great rareness or hardness. Its brilliant lustre could not then have been known, as the art of cutting and polishing this gem was not yet discovered.

The diamond is colorless, or of a light yellow, or smokey grey, passing to bluish or pearl grey, or clear wine color; also clove brown and yellowish green—also blackish brown—prussian blue and rose red. The colorless are the most precious, then the blue, red and black; the light colored being in least estimation.

Its hardness is superior to that of all other bodies. By long continued friction, however, it yields to corundum—to that alone.

When heated to the temperature of melting copper, and exposed to a current of air, the diamond is perfectly combustible, exhibiting a luminous areola during the process; it is entirely converted into carbonic acid, and is therefore pure carbon. The numerous experiments on this subject need not be repeated to you; not even those of Sir G. Mackenzie, who burn-

ed up a superb and costly set belonging to his lady.

The art of cutting and polishing the diamond is supposed to have been known at very early periods in Hindostan and China; but corundum being the only substance employed, they were unable to show the peculiar lustre of this gem. Its extreme hardness baffled all attempts in Europe until 1456, when a young man, (Louis Bergher,) of Bruges, endeavoring to polish two by rubbing them together; he produced a facet, which induced him to construct a polishing wheel, on which with diamond powder, he was enabled to cut and polish them. Previous to this, diamonds were set in jewelry in the state in which they came from India; the octohedrons were, of course, most esteemed, on account of the regularity of the figure, and superior polish.

In preparing either a brilliant or a rose diamond, about half is cut away; hence the value of a cut diamond is esteemed equal to that of a similar rough diamond of twice its weight, independent of the cost of workmanship. The weight and consequently the value of diamonds, is estimated in carats, one of which is equal to four grains, and the difference between the price of one diamond and another is, *ceteri paribus*, as the square of their respective weights. Thus the true value of diamonds of 1-4 and 3 carats weight respectively is as 1-2 and 9.—The average price of rough diamonds worth working, is about \$9 for the first carat and consequently in wrought diamonds, exclusive of the workmanship, the cost of the first carat is \$36. To estimate the worth of a wrought diamond, we must ascertain its exact weight in carats; multiply it by two; then multiply this product by itself, and multiply this last product by 9.—Hence a diamond of one carat is worth \$36, one of two carats \$126.—But this rule only holds good in respect to diamonds of twenty carats and



under; the large ones selling by no means in proportion to their weight.

The largest diamond in the world is the great diamond of Portugal. It was found in Brazil, is yet in its rough state, and weighs 1680 carats. Some persons suppose it to be only colorless topaz.

The largest undoubted diamond belongs to the great Mogul; it weighs 280 carats. The next is the Brazilian diamond, belonging to the king of Portugal, weighing 215 carats.

An oriental diamond, formerly belonging to a Persian Sultan, now in possession of the Emperor of Russia, has not the least flaw or fault, and weighs 193 carats. It was bought by Catharine for £90,000 in cash, and an annuity of £4,000 (\$17,760.) It is about the size of a large pigeon's head.

The next is the celebrated Regent diamond, called also the Pitt diamond, (after the gentlemen who brought it from India.) It was bought for £1,000,000, and remains in the crown jewels of France.

In the crown jewels of France are 42 diamonds, worth at a low computation \$6,500,000!!—*N. Y. States.*

#### PORTRAIT OF SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Mr. Newton, Mr. Leslile, and Mr. Edward Landseer, have lately returned to London, from a visit to Scotland, which was undertaken chiefly for purposes connected with their profession. Each of these gentlemen resided at Sir Walter Scott's, and each has brought away a portrait of his host. The three portraits differ in some respects from each other. In Mr. Leslile's picture, Scott is represented sitting in a chair, holding in his right hand a stick, which on account of his lameness, is his inseparable companion. The hair and the marks of approaching baldness are well depicted. Mr. Leslile has reverted to the practice which once generally prevailed, of painting the arms of the sitter in a corner of the picture. The

colors of the arms in the present instance are very quiet, and the object does not appear amiss. The motto is, "What it weel," Messrs. Newton and Landseer have painted Sir Walter in his library. The dress is the same in all the pictures—namely a green coat, yellow waistcoat, light trousers, and a black neck cloth. Messrs. Newton and Landseer have added a leather belt, attached to which Sir Walter carries a hammer and a small hatchet which he uses very frequently in pruning the trees on his estate—an occupation of which he is very fond. Mr. Landseer, who is known to the public only as a painter of animals, has proved by this effort that his talents are not limited to that branch of art in which he has rendered himself eminent. Although the portrait was made in a very short time, and under some disadvantages, that likeness is considered excellent. Mr. Newton's picture, which we should have before stated to be a very clever production, is to be immediately engraved. Mr. Leslile's portrait is destined for a gentleman in America, for whom it was expressly painted.

#### AURORA BOREALIS.

*New Theory.*—Professor Haustein considers the Aurora Borealis, as a luminous ring surrounding the magnetic pole, with a radius varying from 20 to 40 degrees, and at the height of about 100 miles above the surface of the earth. It is formed, he thinks, by luminous columns shooting upward from the earth's surface, in a direction parallel to the inclination of the needle, and to the direction of the earth's magnetism; these columns render the atmosphere opaque while they pass through it, and only become luminous after they pass beyond it. From the outer or convex side of the ring, beams dart forth in a direction nearly perpendicular, to the arch, and ascend towards the zenith; and if they are so long as to pass it towards the south, they col-



lect in the south into a sort of corona, or glory, which is situated in that point of the heavens to which the south pole of the needle points. Professor H. finds that the observations made respecting the northern Aurora are well explained by this hypothesis; and he has collected facts to show that a similar ring exists around the southern magnetic pole situated in New Holland, the northern being in North America. He infers farther, though the stock of observations is rather deficient, that similar luminous rings exist above the two extremities of the secondary magnetic axis in Siberia and in Terra del Fuego.

*University at Gottingen.*—The celebrated University at Gottingen, at its very commencement, was better endowed and had a larger number of students, than Harvard or Yale at this day. It has now, besides private instructors, above 40 professors, who give more than a hundred courses of lectures each session, or *semestre*. Its botanical garden, museum of natural history, anatomical establishment, observatory, &c. are among the best in the world. Its library, which is arranged in philosophical order, and at all times accessible on the most perfectly liberal terms, consists of 200,000 volumes, and did at one time, by the addition of the libraries of two suppressed universities, which were afterwards restored, amount to 400,000 volumes. It has generally about 1500 students, drawn thither by its splendid endowments, not only from its own vicinity, but from various parts of the world; and the literary ardour of the students is proportioned to their numbers and advantages—the most of them studying 14 hours a day, with an enthusiasm unknown at any American college. And yet this University, eminent as it is, is not the growth of centuries, but was founded later by a hundred years than Harvard College.—*Corn. Jour.*

*Literary Anecdote.*—A curious literary anecdote has reached us, of the times of Henry VIII. Tonstall, Bishop of London, whose extreme moderation, of which he was accused at the time, preferred burning books to burning authors, which was then getting into practice, to testify his abhorrence of Tindal's principles, who had printed a translation of the New Testament, a sealed book for the multitude, thought of purchasing all the copies of Tindal's translation, and annihilating them in one common flame. This occurred to him when passing through Antwerp, in 1529, then a place of residence for the Tindalists. He employed an English merchant there for this business, who happened to be a secret follower of Tindal, and acquainted him with the Bishop's intention. Tindal was extremely glad to hear of the project, for he was desirous of printing a more correct edition of his version, but the first impression still hung on his hands, and he was too poor to make a new one. He furnished the English merchant with all his unsold copies, which the Bishop as eagerly bought, and had them all publicly burned in Cheapside; which the people not only declared was "a burning of the Word of God," but it so influenced the desire of reading that volume, that the second was sought after at any price, and when one of the Tindalists, who was sent here to sell them, was promised by the Lord Chancellor, in a private examination, that he should not suffer if he would reveal who encouraged and supported his party at Antwerp, the Tindalist immediately accepted the offer, and assured the Lord Chancellor that the greatest encouragement they had was from Tonstall, Bishop of London, who had bought up half the first impression, and enabled them to produce a second!

The London Baptist Missionary Society lately received from a friend, £1000 Sterling.



---

## MONTHLY REGISTER.

---

The past month has been very barren of political incidents. Most of the spring elections have passed without the least excitement, and the result would be most appropriate to our work when published officially. The Hon. Judge Lincoln has been chosen governor, without the smallest organized opposition, having been simultaneously nominated by both parties—the same may be said as to the nearly unanimous choice of Mr. Morton as lieutenant governor.—Attempts to choose senators on the ground of former party divisions, have almost uniformly failed, and union tickets have prevailed wherever they have been proposed for the suffrages of the people.

Gov. Morrill has been reelected in New Hampshire almost without opposition. A considerable change has been effected in the House of Representatives of that state, probably in most instances with a view to prevent Mr. Mason's election to the senate of the United States.

The national government proceeds without the least apparent excitement, in consequence of the new chief magistrate.

The Hon. Rufus King has been appointed as minister to England; which seems to be the only event calculated to cause the least observation as to the state of parties.

The last Recorder contains a letter from the Rev. William Richards, one of the American missionaries to the Sandwich Islands, which places the conduct of that fickle and inconstant people in a striking light, one day the missionaries have been in danger of their lives from the violence of the people, at another they have had 300 in their schools, and overflowing assemblies for religious worship. He says, at one time probably more than

one half of the people of Lahaina have been making an excessive use of intoxicating drink.

In India the Birman Empire seems to be undergoing an important revolution; a war has been carried on for some months between the East India Company or the British forces in that country, and the King or Emperor of Birmah, and at the last advices Rangoon and an extensive tract of country was under submission to the British army. Much apprehension has been entertained for the safety of the American missionaries resident in Ava the capital of that Empire.

Much attention has been excited in this and some of the neighboring states, by a visit from Mr. Ellis, a missionary in the employ of the London Missionary Society, and lately resident for a considerable time with our missionaries at the Sandwich Islands. He has visited many of our towns, and given very interesting accounts of the state of society and manners in both of those groups of Islands, and of the situation and prospects of the missionaries settled in both of those places.

On the 7th of April, Boston was visited with a destructive fire, it commenced about half past 10 o'clock at night, and raged for about five hours with great intensity. It destroyed five buildings in State Street, six in Kilby Street, thirteen in Liberty Square, four in Broad Street, nineteen in Central Street and six in Doane Street—total fifty three; the loss is estimated at \$500,000, about \$20,000 of which was insured, and much advantage it is thought may be gained by a better appropriation of the lots towards making up or diminishing the loss.

The report a committee exonerates the students of Union College, from any blame in the case of the riot near a methodist church in that vicinity.



The Christian Mirror published at Portland, contains a long and well written article upon the tenets and practices of the sect called Shakers, elicited it appears by the book entitled, "a portraiture of Shakerism," published by Mary Dyer, in which book the principles and practices of that people are represented in a light, which if true, shows them to be much too bad to be tolerated by a christian people. We hope the subject will command the attention of legislators and men of knowledge and influence; if false, this sect of Sanctimonious exterior are entitled to the benefit of an acquittal; if true, their harems of vice and oppression should be broken up. For our own part we must confess we have but little charity for the religious tenets of a society, who, professing to be christians, treat most of the positive ordinances of the gospel with neglect or contempt, nor do we believe that any men of common sense will ever maintain their system as to marriage, without some sinister motive, unless it is a part of the plan to render mankind either immortal or extinct; on the contrary, history proves that pretensions of extraordinary chastity, have in most cases been accompanied with practices of promiscuous cohabitation, and the public eye should be directed to the making of a severe scrutiny as to the real truth of such pretensions, before children are permitted to be exposed to contamination.

A letter from Mr. Maucolt, at Travancore, East Indies, gives much encouragement as to the success of native schools, and mentions that numbers of females had learned to read, which he says is a great novelty in that part of the world.

A quarterly letter from the missionaries at Bencoolen says, 'our native schools are in a truly flourishing state. One hundred boys are submitted to the discipline of a Lancastrian school.

News has been received of a change in the Turkish ministry, and that the difficulties of the Ottoman government multiply daily—its subjects being in a most wretched condition. An insurrection at Constantinople was expected, and the Divan had embroiled themselves with the Russian minister.

We have favorable accounts from Greece—news has been received of the surrender of the important fortress of Patras to the Greeks, and that the Grecian naval forces had even passed the Dardanelles, and were committing acts of hostility on the Turkish commerce in the Black Sea.

An article in the Boston Weekly Messenger highly recommends the history of Massachusetts, lately published, in two volumes, by Alden Bradford, Esq. as containing much useful information derived from the records of the commonwealth, and which has not heretofore been introduced into any history of the state.

A case of accidental poisoning by eating the wild parsnip, occurred in Portland a few days since, which had nearly proved fatal to two boys: they supposed them to be artichokes.—*Quere*—Does their deleterious qualities arise from any acrid or narcotic principle or from their being totally indigestible in the human stomach?

Mr. Edmund M. Blunt, lately sailed from Alvarado to St. Juan, to commence the survey of the proposed rout for a canal, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Mr. Blunt is well known to the people of the U. States, especially in New York and Massachusetts, and we have much pleasure in the prospect that the great problem whether such a canal is practicable, is likely to be solved.

An act has passed the N. Y. Legislature directing surveys for 17 new canals, in different parts of the state.



## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

We are happy to learn that agreeable to the suggestions of some of our former numbers, two surveys of the falls in Merrimack river between Haverhill and Bradford have lately been made, by which the falls are proved to be amply sufficient to turn machinery to any extent, tho' somewhat less than they had been generally estimated.—The elevation of the water at Gage's Ferry above the top of high water at the foot of the falls, was found to be eight feet and some inches, consequently at low water ten or twelve feet, and the elevation of the land at the highest point in crossing the neck, was found to be ninety six feet, consequently a canal across must be considered as out of the question, but no skilful engineer, we presume, would be at a loss to devise other practicable means of rendering the falls useful and the river navigable.

—  
For the Merrimack Magazine.

## MORAL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS.

Though no person, it is presumed, will be so unreasonable as to suppose, that morals naturally decline under a republican government, in, what a politician would call, successful operation; it cannot be denied, that in our own country we find but a poor example of the absurdity of such a supposition. Here indeed the grand experiment, which, for half a century, has kept the political world in anxious expectation—whether a nation can exist under an established system of government, and yet be *completely free*, has been tried; and, as it respects civil welfare, has terminated successfully. But there may be, for aught we know, a sad reverse in store; and if ever it should be realized, and our republic be dissolved—we must look for the causes of the morals of the people.

Every one, perhaps, is ready to admit, that a deplorable moral declension has taken place in New England, (to

say nothing of other parts of the Union) since the days of our Pilgrim Fathers. And it becomes an interesting and important inquiry—what has caused the declension? I shall say nothing at present of the influence which the peculiar circumstances of our ancestors, the hermet-like solitude of their situation, and the thousand solemn incitements to virtue around them, may have had, in preserving strong and pure those high principles which they brought with them over the wide sea; and, of several valuable advantages they consequently enjoyed, which are almost unknown to us—and will speak only of an unfortunate change that has been introduced since their days, into the education of youth. We find that *they* were not solicitous merely to instruct their children in the various branches of science and art; but more especially to instruct them in the principles, and form them for the practices of morality. In their schools, morality seems to have been taught, as a distinct branch, so to speak;—and no pains seem to have been spared, to impress indelibly upon the minds of youth, a sense of its importance in after life. This must have had most happy effects; for whatever is instilled into the mind, at an early age, goes to lay the foundation of a fixed intellectual and moral character—to prepare the soil from which the virtues or vices of life are to spring and flourish. The framers of the constitution of Massachusetts, were not ignorant of this, and in an article respecting public schools, amidst various advantages mentioned as arising from them, moral instruction holds a conspicuous place.

But where shall we find any thing like systematic moral instruction in our modern schools? Children may perhaps be required occasionally to commit a religious catechism, a passage from scripture, a hymn, or may now and then, receive a few words of real instruction of a moral tendency. But this is not considered as a particular



object for which children are sent to school, and therefore they do not feel its importance. They are told—"they go to learn their books"—not to learn to be good members of society in a moral point of view; and hence they look upon morality, as forming no part of their school education. In some schools we find no moral instruction in any shape whatever; the bible may be read, but it is read like any other book without reverence and even without understanding. At such a school, numerous facilities are presented to youth for the promotion of vicious habits; and, having contracted these, they go forth into the world with no sense of their responsibility to God, or of the obligations they are under to labor for the good of community—with no sound principles, indeed, of any sort to guide them. I would not, however, be supposed to believe, that schools are the only place, where good and sound principles are to be implanted and cherished; but I do believe that no place is better adapted than schools, if rightly conducted, to this all important purpose, excepting only the paternal fireside. And when these great fountains of almost all that is amiable and lovely and excellent in character, become stagnant or impure; their effects on society are not easy of calculation. Nevertheless, I would not say that they have become either stagnant or impure among us; but only that the streams they send forth are far less salutary, in many respects, than they once were. Let the character of our schools be raised; let moral instruction be universally introduced, and particularly attended to, as of vastly higher importance than any other branch of common education; let the minds of youth be thoroughly imbued with it; and it will be of more service in purifying society; in diminishing the number of the idle, the intemperate and the wretched, than all the prohibitions and penalties that any legislature or court can enact or enforce, D.

---

## POETRY.

---

For the Merrimack Magazine.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

SAY hast thou seen death's arrow fly,  
And pointed at a friend come nigh!  
His deadly shaft aiming at one  
Whom you had placed your hopes upon?

Or more unkind has he hereft  
You of a parent's care, and left  
A wanderer in this world so wide,  
Your youthful steps without a guide?

Come then together let us weep,  
Our tears will flow from sorrow's deep,  
Our sighs commingled shall ascend  
To him who is the orphan's friend,

For I once shar'd a mother's love,  
"There is" she said "a God above,"  
With heart felt praise and pious prayer,  
She would commend me to his care.

But mem'ry still delights to trace,  
The glowing features of her face,  
Reminds me of the power divine,  
Of grace, methinks I see it shine.

My nightly visions are of her,  
(Sleep is a sweet remembrancer,)  
When on my pillow I repose,  
My peaceful rest no anguish knows.

The sparkling eye methinks I see,  
That beam'd with love and joy on me,  
The rosy lips the cheek once flush'd  
With health, in silence now is hush'd.

Death's hand has seal'd the lip that spoke,  
Close'd the bright eye, no more it woke,  
Her lovely form consign'd to earth,  
Awaits a glorious second birth.

That bursting sigh, that trickling tear,  
My friend conceal; no comfort here  
Our parents could enjoy, above  
Is bliss secure, and perfect love. C.

---

HAVERHILL, MASS.

E. W. Reinhart—printer.

JEREMIAH SPOFFORD, *Bradford,*  
Editor and Proprietor,

*To whom letters and papers relative to the  
publication may be directed.*

TERMS—\$1 per annum payable in 6 months